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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3635th meeting of the Security Council, held on 27 February 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Shooting down of two civil aircraft on 24 February 1996", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council strongly deplores the shooting down by the Cuban air force of two civil aircraft on 24 February 1996, which apparently has resulted in the death of four persons.

"The Security Council recalls that according to international law, as reflected in Article 3 bis of the International Convention on Civil Aviation of 7 December 1944 added by the Montreal Protocol of 10 May 1984, States must refrain from the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and must not endanger the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft. States are obliged to respect international law and human rights norms in all circumstances.

"The Security Council requests that the International Civil Aviation Organization investigate this incident in its entirety and calls on the Governments concerned to cooperate fully with this investigation. The Council requests that the International Civil Aviation Organization report its findings to the Council as soon as possible. The Council will consider that report and any further information presented to it without delay."

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